

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 031111Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 943

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND THE EEC REFERENDUM

REF: BELFAST A-15, FEBRUARY 5, 1975.

1. SUMMARY: IAN PAISLEY AND THE PROVISIONAL IRA WANT OUT AS DO THE PIG PRODUCERS. THE MILK PRODUCERS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY AND THE CONFERENCE OF BRITISH INDUSTRY WANT TO STAY IN. INTERNATL ULSTER POLITICS, A GENERAL FEELING THAT THE ISSUE LACKS RELEVANCE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, BEWILDERMENT ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP AND TRIBAL INCLINATIONS TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WITH ISSUES WILL PROBABLY COMBINE TO PRODUCE A LIGHT NEGATIVE VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM ON THE EEC JUNE 5. END SUMMARY.

2. NORTHERN IRELAND WAS SLOW TO ENTER DEBATE ON MEMBERSHIP IN COMMON MARKET. TRADITIONAL PREOCCUPATION AMOUNTING TO OBSESSION WITH LOCAL EVENTS AND ISSUES AND GENERAL FEELING THAT MATTER PROBABLY IRRELEVANT TO PROVINCE ANYWAY DELAYED

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TAKEOFF. PAST TWO WEEKS HOWEVER HAS SEEN LOCAL FORMATION

OF PRO AND ANTI-MARKET GROUPS AND MOUNTING WAVE OF PARTY DECLARATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS. THOSE "AGAINST" INCLUDE OFFICIAL UNIONISTS, DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS, ORANGE ORDER, PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN, REPUBLICAN CLUBS (OFFICEIAL SINN FEIN), PIG MARKETING BOARD, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL, ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION AND THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE. THOSE "FOR" MUSTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP), ALLIANCE PARTY, UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI), ULSTER FARMERS UNION, CONFEDERATION BRITISH INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION AND MILK MARKETING BOARD. NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY AND VANGUARD UNIONISTS DIVIDED AND VANGUARD HAS SUGGESTED ITS SUPPORTERS EXERCISE FREE VOTE.

3. DISCUSSIONS RANGE FROM SERIOUS ATTEMPTS EDUCATE FARMERS, CONSUMERS AND WORKERS OF BENEFITS OR DISADVANTAGES MEMBERSHIP THROUGH APPEALS TO CLASS AND OCCUPATIONAL CONCERNS TO UNIQUELY ULSTER OVER SIMPLIFICATION OF ALL ISSUES TO DENOMINATOR OF SECTARIAN DIFFERENCES. MOST SERIOUS OF ANTI GROUPS CONCENTRATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND AS PERIPHERAL DEPRIVED REGION. THEIR PRO COUNTERPARTS DESCRIBE BENEFITS FROM REGIONAL ASSISTANCE. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AND REPUBLICAN CLUBS SPEAK OF SITUATION "IN SIX COUNTIES", ENOCH POWELL IN ONE SPEECH DESCRIBED "THE ILL-CONCEALED DISLIKE OF EX-PRIME MINISTER HEATH FOR ULSTER AND ALL THINGS CONNECTED WITH IT AND HIS IMPATIENCE TO FIND SOME WAY, ANY WAY, OF GETTING RID OF IT ALTOGETHER" AS THE COUNTERPART OF "HIS MONOMANIA FOR FORCING THE UNITED KINGDOM INTO THE COMMON MARKET" AND THE REVEREND IAN PAISLEY WARNED AGAINST IMMERSION IN A "CATHOLIC SUPER STATE" WHICH CONTAINED IN ITS SIX ORIGINAL MEMBER STATES 154 MILLION CATHOLICS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 175 MILLION PEOPLE. THE ISSUE OF "SOVEREIGNTY" IS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY IN ULSTER AND WILL ACCOUNT FOR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF "NO" VOTES

4. BELFAST BOOKIES ARE NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTING BETS ON ULSTER VOTE. FOR ENTIRE UNITED KINGDOM IF ONE BELIEVES U.K. WILL STAY IN, HE HAS TO BET SEVEN POUNDS TO WIN ONE. IF HE BELIEVES THAT U.K. WILL VOTE OUT HIS ONE POUND BET COULD WIN HIM FIVE. DESPITE THESE ODDS FOR U.K. AS WHOLE IT PROBABLE ULSTER WILL GO IT ALONE AND, APATHY AND IGNORANCE COMPOUNDING CONFUSION, WILL VOTE AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PROVINCE AGAINST CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNITY.
SPICER

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NNN

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